

Original Article

A Retrospective Study of Suicidal Death Studied in Dinajpur Medical College, Dinajpur

Rahman MM¹, Rahman MZ², Hossain MG³

Abstract

Suicide is one of the forms of criminal offence in our country and it is also prevailing in other countries of the world. Whenever attempts to commit suicide and does any act towards the commission of such offence, shall be punished with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year or with fine or with both. Shooting, hanging and stabbing are a 'hard way' of committing suicide and typically a male choice. Poisoning and drowning are 'soft way' of committing suicide and typically a female choice. A retrospective study was conducted on suicidal death, the department of forensic medicine, Dinajpur medical college. 20 cases were examined from June 2004 to June 2006 for 2 years. All the cases were referred from 13 different police stations and one railway station of Dinajpur district. Among them the highest number of cases were brought by Kotowally police station and the lowest from Hakimpur police station. But among the 20 cases 70% were female Muslims. The highest frequency of offence was found in lower socioeconomic growth. The age group of the was from 20 - 35 years.

Keywords: Suicide reporting,

Introduction

Suicide usually means self destruction. Broadly in can be defined as ruin or harm suffered by a person, society etc. on account of his own action. Suicide may injure them selves in different ways, some bizarre in the extreme. The pathologist must always be alert to the possibility that such injuries are not suicides, but some manifestations of peculiar practices that have taken a cause unintended by the victim. A prime example is masochistic asphyxia which is still some times mistaken for suicide¹. In our country the incidence of suicide is increasing day by day. Unfortunately we are considered as the 3rd world developing nation with high rate of birth, mortality and morbidity and the higher population growth rate.

Higher population pressures directly and effects on countries low socio economic growth, lack of education unemployment and poverty. As a result the number of suicidal deaths increases day by day. Although the mortality of a man breaks down under certain conditions

like social and economic insecurity, social stigma etc. The causes of suicides are not only related with the victims but also associated with other factors. Now-a-days different papers publish the incidence of suicide with due importance though many cases are not reported due to social stigma, fear and prestige of the family. In fact, the suicidal death cases are much higher than the cases recorded by authority.

Materials & Methods

It was a retrospective study carried out in the department of forensic medicine Dinajpur medical college from June 2004 to June 2006. During these years all the medicolegal cases were referred from 13 different police stations and one railway station of Dinajpur district. The data was collected from the relatives of the victims.

Result

Total 20 cases were brought by different police stations of Dinajpur district to the department of forensic

1. Associate Professor, Forensic Medicine department, Enam Medical College, Savar, Dhaka

2. Assistant Professor, Forensic Medicine department, Rajshahi Medical College, Rajshahi

3. Lecture Forensic Medicine department, Enam Medical College, Savar, Dhaka

examination. Considering the socioeconomic status of the victims, it was found that the higher frequency of suicide is among the lower socio economic group. The highest frequencies of victims were noted in table-1, age

group 20-25 years noted in table-2. According to special opinion no definite opinion was yet been given. According to police statistics the higher frequency was from kotowally PS and the lowest from Hakimpur PS.

Table -1: shows the distribution of the cases according to socioeconomic status

| Class | No. of cases (2004) | No. of cases (2005) | No. of cases (2006) | Total |
|--------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------|
| Upper | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| Middle | 2 | 2 | 2 | 20 |
| Lower | 4 | 3 | 4 | |

Table-2: shows no. of cases according to age

| Age group(in year) | No. of cases (2004) | No. of cases (2005) | No. of cases (2006) | Total |
|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------|
| 0-20 | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| 20-35 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 20 |
| 36-40 | 2 | 1 | 1 | |

Discussion

Suicide is increasing day by day. According to Bureau of police research and development number of suicides has been increasing continually in Bangladesh than the previous years. If we look at the daily news paper there are new cases of suicide. One study shows that victimization of suicides increases with middle age group as well as those who are socio economically lagging behind.

Suicides, apart from poisoning may use (or even more) of the following methods

- a. Stabbing and cutting
- b. Firearm and explosives
- c. Jumping from height
- d. Burning
- e. Suffocation eg. Plastic bags
- f. Hanging and strangulation
- g. Electrocution
- h. Road & railway injuries
- i. Drowning.

Suicidal knife wounds may be incised and stab wounds are self inflicted either from victims of self destructions, from mental aberrations or by deliberately for some form of gain. Suicidal knife wounds have some characteristics. These are the wounds whose site and range are within the reach of the deceased arm, unless some device has been used to reach the trigger. The

weapons must be present at the scene².

The suicidal wounds may be multiple. A suicidal cut throat usually has the trial of incision. Deliberate cutting of the wrist is rarely effective the sole method of suicide. Suicidal knife wounds over the chest are almost always stab wounds. Suicidal knife wounds are not often made in the abdomen. Stab wound of the neck are uncommon in suicide. In case of suicide by firearm there are certain 'sites of selection' which are predominantly over the throat, the wrist and the front of the chest.

Suicide may be by sub-mersion is a common mode of self destruction in both man and women. Suicide may be by asphyxia (hanging).

Abetment of suicide is punishable under section 306 and attempt to commit suicide under section 309. The term abetment has been defined under section 107 IPC where in it has stressed that there must be investigation; co-operation or intentional assistance given that would be suicide³.

It is also considered as unlawful homicide, since the accused is abetting or aiding the victim in committing suicide. It may be noted that if the person who wants to die asks another person to kill him, then it becomes culpable homicide only(i.e. by consent). Punishment for

abetment of suicide, the person abetting suicide of another person, shall be punished with imprisonment up to 10 years & shall also be liable to fine ⁴. Attempt to commit suicide- if any act towards the commission of suicide is done, the punishment is imprisonment up to 1 year or fine or both. Abetment of suicide of child or insane person the punishment is 10 years imprisonment.⁵

Conclusion

Injuries that are deliberately self inflicted are common and their examination is a frequent task for both pathologist and clinical forensic practitioners. These events consist of suicide, attempted suicide & suicidal gestures- the latter lacking the intention to kill though death may inadvertently ensues. Suicide is the form of criminal offence which is prevailing all over the world. Unfortunately it is also increasing day by day in our country. We must try to prevent this form of heinous propensity without considering the caste, creed & color and also the sex and age of him individual. The abettor

should be punished so that no incidence can occur in future.

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